

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on September 9, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have editorially amended the specification, and amended claims 1 and 3. Further, the subject matter of claim 2 has been amended into independent claim 1, and claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 1 is the independent claim, and claims 1, and 3-5 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has objected to the Declaration as being defective. In response thereto, submitted herewith is a supplemental declaration, which is submitted to comply with all official requirements.

The Examiner has objected to the claims for various informalities. In response thereto, the claims have been thoroughly amended, to correct the informalities specifically noted by the Examiner's Action, and to correct various informalities noted during the review. It is requested that these objections be withdrawn.

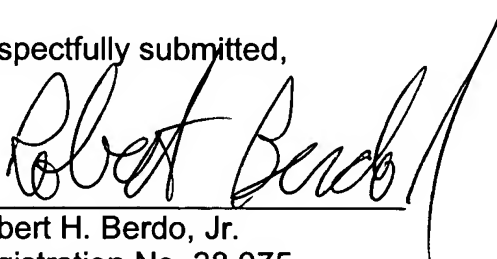
The Examiner has also rejected claim 2 as being indefinite. Although claim 2 has been canceled, when drafting independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, special care has been taken to ensure that the matters noted by the Examiner's Action have been taken care of. It is submitted

that the claims comply with all official provisions, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of original claim 2 as being allowable over the art of record. As noted above, Applicants' independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, so that all of the Examiner's prior art rejections have been rendered moot. Thus, this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

RHB:vm